**News**

Encomiums As Aregbesola Clocks 66

***•Ogbeni An Epitome Of Diligence, Dedicated Service To The People – Ooni***

**Ismaeel Uthman**

**W**

**ell-wishers** have been pouring encomiums on the Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, who celebrates his 66th birthday today, Thursday, May 25.

In their various congratulatory messages, the well-wishers said Aregbesola is worthy of being celebrated, describing him as a strong man who has impacted many lives.

The Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, described the former governor of the State of Osun as an epitome of diligence with dedicated service to the people.

Oba Ogunwusi, in his birthday message, said: “Royal congratulations from the House of Oduduwa to His Excellency, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola as today gloriously commemorates your 66th Birthday Anniversary.

“Ogbeni, you are indeed and epitome of diligence, dedicated service to the people and absolute loyalty.

“Your achievements in Lagos as a commissioner, in Osun state as governor and currently as a minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will forever find you worthy of being celebrated.

“Wishing many more prosperous years in good health.”

The Oloyan of Oyan, Oba Kelani Adekeye, congratulated Aregbesola on his achievements in life, saying he is no doubt a successful person.

According to Oba Adekeye, there is no gainsaying the fact that Aregbesola is an achiever and a man who has proven to be a reference in good governance delivery and public administration.

“We are proud of Aregbesola, he is making us proud as well. As a governor of Osun, his administration brought unprecedented development in the state. As a minister of interior, he added value to President Muhammadu Buhari’s administration. He has solved many problems in immigration, correctional services and others.

 “Aregbesola is a development personified. He is a great man, a successful man. I congratulate him on his 66th birthday. He is a man we can’t forget so soon”, said Oba Adekeye.

Congratulating Aregbesola, the Deputy Chief Whip, State of Osun House of Assembly, Hon. Abidemi Ogunkanmi, described the minister as an ambassador of progressives ideology.

According to Ogunkanmi, Aregbesola is a strong politician who has laid a good example for all his followers to emulate in terms of service to humanity, consistency, courage, political ideology and fear of God.

He said, “whilst as the governor of Osun, Aregbesola performed very well. He brought physical changes to the state. He provided social amenities to the people of Osun. He constructed massive roads, built schools and he brought good legacies and made a name for himself in history of Osun politics.

“As the minister of interior, Aregbesola performed wonderfully well through various reforms that has elevated Nigeria among comity of nation and brought easiness to the citizens”.

Scavengers Activities Threatening Lives Of Osun Residents – NGO

**Yusuf Oketola**

**A**

 Non-governmental organisation, Urban Alert, has raised the alarm on the increased threat to the lives and property of residents of the State of Osun by the activities of scavengers.

Urban Alert complained that, activities of the scavengers has endangered the lives of residents, with many properties carted away.

The group lamented that security agencies have been unable to curb the criminal conducts of the scavengers.

The organisation in a petition written to Governor Ademola Adeleke, stated that investigations have shown that the scavengers go about their trade armed with dangerous weapons, which include knives and daggers.

Urban Alert reminded Adeleke that previous administrations had designed an identity system through which the nefarious activities of scrap scavengers were curbed.

It urged Adeleke to restructure and relaunch the identity system for scrap scavengers through which the primary data of scavengers working in the state will be captured.

The petition which was signed by its Executive Director, Anthony Adejuwon reads, “Recently, there has been an astronomical increase in havoc caused by scrap scavengers in Osun State.

“Scrap scavengers go around to pack metal equipment, kitchen utensils and cart away people’s properties. Several times, they have been reported to security agencies without any significant positive outcome.

“Preliminary investigations through our engagement channels have revealed that the scavengers also go around with knives and daggers.

“They have the potential to attack law-abiding citizens that attempt to resist them from stealing their property.

“This implies that their activities threaten the safety of lives and properties of over five million residents in Osun.

“Meanwhile, the past administration of the state had designed an identity system through which the nefarious activities of scrap scavengers were curbed.

“A database was established that captured the basic identity of these scavengers, and identity cards and marked jackets were issued to them. Thus, this system was able to checkmate their excesses at that time.

“However, this system is no longer in place and has fueled the increase in their nefarious activities.

“We, therefore, urge Your Excellency to restructure and relaunch the identity system for scrap scavengers through which the primary data of scavengers working in the state will be captured.

“An identity system will enable residents of the state to quickly identify the scavengers, engage them in case of any mishap and forestall violence in the communities.”

UNESCO Recommends 4 Osun Tourist Sites For Approval

**Ismaeel Uthman**

**T**

**he** United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recommended four tourist sites in the State of Osun as national monument and to become world heritage sites.

The recommended sites are Quadrangle building which consist of about 16 buildings inside Obafemi Awolowo University, Ifa Temple; Opa Oranmiyan Grove and Shrine in Ile-Ife, as well as Olumirin water fall Erin Ijesa.

According to a report by the Information Officer, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, State of Osun, Mrs Tobi Awofadeju, the sites were recommended by UNESCO after an inspection on Friday.

The inspection team, according to the report, comprised the Curator, National Museums Village, Ile-Ife, Mr Nathanie Ogunmola, who also represented UNESCO, the Coordinating Director, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Mrs Solabomi Akinsola, Executive Secretary, Council for Art and Culture, Mrs Solape Abolarin, among others.

Ogunmola said the process of getting approval for the recommendation of the sites by UNESCO started in 2021.

Speaking on behalf of Governor Ademola Adeleke, Akinsola appreciated UNESCO for approving the sites as national monuments and to become world heritage sites.

Akinsola said Adeleke was committed to bring Yoruba cultural heritage sites to limelight and world standard, stating that Osun residents will be more grateful if the sites are declared world Heritage sites,.

She promised that the state government will do everything possible to ensure that the sites meet up with the UNIESCO standard.

In his remarks, The Vice Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Professor Adebayo Bamire, appreciated UNESCO for recognising the institution, promising that the university will abide by the rules guiding the site to meet up with the standard.

Activists Demand Justice As Police Teargas Lands Students In Hospital

**Yusuf Oketola**

**H**

**uman** rights activists have condemned what they described as assault on Fakunle/Unity High School students by riot policemen at PMF 39 Base, Osogbo, State of Osun, on Tuesday.

The policemen, **OSUN DEFENDER** gathered, fired teargas during their morning drill within the premises of the base, which filtered into the premises of the school.

The students inhaled the teargas and subsequently became unconscious, a development that led to commotion as students were seeing trooping out of their various classrooms.

No fewer than 35 students of the school were hospitalized at two different hospitals.

Some of the affected students were said to have been taken to a private hospital close to the school while others where rushed to Osun State University Teaching Hospital (UNIOSUNTH) with the aid of Osun Ambulance Service.

The incident paralysed academic activities as other students were directed to go home.

When contacted, the Spokesperson of the Osun State Police Command, Yemisi Opalola, said the riot policemen were engaging in their usual morning drills and apologised to students affected.

“We are sorry for the inconveniences,” Opalola said.

Also, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Adelani Aderinola, through the Information Officer, Roseline Olawuni, said the mobile policemen were holding a memorial exercise in honour of their fallen colleagues in Benue State when they used the teargas.

Reacting to the development, the Chairman, Osun Civil Societies Coalition, Comrade Waheed Lawal, described the conduct of the policemen as barbaric, stating that fearing teargas near a school premises without any riot is totally uncivilised.

According to Lawal, the policemen’s conduct spoke volume about their care for civilians and environment, maintaining that it was a height of insensitivity to fire teargas in an open space filled with harmless people.

He said: “The conduct of the riot policemen at PMF 39 Base, Osogbo, on Tuesday which led to hospitalization of some students of Fakunle/Unity High School is totally condemnable. Fearing teargas near a school premises is barbaric and uncivilised.

“We need not to question their state of mind as regard respect for civilians and human rights. Their conduct speaks volume about how they feel about ordinary Nigerians. How would you have fired teargas in an open space filled with harmless Nigerians, students for that matter? That is uncalled for.

“However, we call on the Inspector General of Police to call the riot policemen to order and compensate the affected students.”

Also, the Secretary Centre for Social Justice and Public Protection, Comrade Naheem Olaore, chided the policemen, describing their conduct as an assault on the students and education.

Olaore, in a statement made available to **OSUN DEFENDER** yesterday, said: “It is shocking that at this age, policemen could be firing teargas near student premises. We considered it a direct attack on the students and education.

“We don’t need to be told that the policemen didn’t care for the rights of the students and other people. We demand justice on this; we want the police to apologise to the students, their parents and the school. We equally want the police to take care of the hospital bills for the treatment of the students.

FG Signs Federal University Of Health Sciences Ila-Orangun Establishment Act

**Kazeem Badmus**

**P**

**resident** Muhammadu Buhari on Monday, signed into law, the Federal University of Health Sciences Ila-Orangun (Establishment) Act.

Other universities signed into law are the Federal University of Health Sciences, Azare (Establishment) Act, the Chartered Institute of Development Studies and Administration of Nigeria (Establishment) Act, the Federal Institute of Industrial Research (Establishment) Act, and the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria Act, respectively.

This was made known in a statement signed by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on National Assembly Matters, Senate, Senator Babajide Omoworare.

It would be recalled that the Federal Government in June, 2021, announced the establishment of four specialised universities, out of which two are universities of medical sciences.

During the announcement, the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, through the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mr Sonny Ochono, said the huge gap in the doctor-patient ratio, as well as in medical research and production of pharmaceutical products, compels the need for the establishment of the universities.

He revealed that the newly established Federal University of Health Sciences, will help to reduce the amount of money Nigerians spend on medical tourism abroad.

Aside the one sited in Ila-Orangun, State of Osun, the other in its category is situated in Azare in Bauchi State.

The other two specialized universities are in the category of University of Technology and are sited in Jigawa and Akwa Ibom states.

Igbajo Indigenes Want Famodun Out Of Palace

**Ismaeel Uthman**

**S**

**ome** youths and women from Igbajo, Boluwaduro local government of the State of Osun, have asked Governor Ademola Adeleke to stop immediate past Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Gboyega Famodun from parading himself as the Owa of Igbajo.

The youths and women stormed the state government secretariat, Abere on Monday in protest against Famodun, claiming that he has continued to occupy the palace in spite of the Governor’s directive that the palace be shutdown.

According to the Igbajo indigenes, Famodun was not eligible to contest the stool because it was not yet the time of his royal lineage to produce candidate.

Speaking on behalf of the protesters, the Deputy Chairman, Igbajo Youths and Women Initiatives, Comrade Adebayo Adebowale, said the protest was to notify the government that Igbajo as a community opposed to Famodun’s appointment.

Adebowale declared that Famodun was imposed on the community by former governor Adegboyega Oyetola.

He urged Adeleke to release the white paper on the report of the Chieftaincy Review Committee set up by him to review the appointments of traditional rulers from July 17 to November 26, 2022.

The protesters were addressed by the Deputy Governor of the State, Mr Kola Oyewusi, who promised that the state government would look into their agitations.

Oyewusi said Governor Ademola Adeleke’s administration is committed to ensuring communal peace and progress, hence he will always follow the rule of law in every step he takes.

He commended the protesters for their peaceful conduct, encouraging them to always express their grievances in a civil manner instead of resulting to violence.

Osun Assembly Members-elect Receive

Legislative Training

 **Yusuf Oketola**

**T**

**he** newly elected members of the State of Osun House of Assembly have undergone a two-day Orientation Workshop in Lagos to prepare them for the task ahead after their inauguration into the house on June 5, 2023.

The orientation programme was organised for the newly elected Osun Assembly members and their counterpart from Ogun State by Kornda Adenauer Stiftung Foundation in collaboration with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS).

Speaking with **OSUN DEFENDER** on the program, one of the newly elected member from Ife North, Hon. Abidemi Oyewusi, said the workshop provided the intellectual and legislative foundation needed for the success of soon-to-be inaugurated assembly members in the state.

Oyewusi stressed that all sessions taken were legislative tools that will enhance functional legislation and foster good relationships with the executive arm of government.

He said: “The just concluded workshop has helped provide the intellectual and legislative foundation for the success of the soon-to-be-inaugurated assembly members of our dear state.

“All the knowledge, experiences and sessions taken are legislative tools that will enhance functional legislation and foster good relationships with the executive arm of government.

**Letter To The Editor**

Indecent Dressing Debate In Our Universities

**D**

**ear** Sir,

The current tussle over dress codes in the universities is spreading like wildfire and deserving a comment if space permits.

The issue is important because at the heart of it all is a clear confusion about the “idea of the university”.

The debate has been ongoing forever although in a more edifying way than spurious often contradictory interpretation of dress codes. Such debates have often centered on more elevated things about quality of research, freedom of expression, teacher, students relationship, student representation and so forth and not trivial or contrived mendacity about dress codes.

A university is not a secondary or finishing school and virtually all the students have the right to vote and in emergencies can be conscripted into the army. In some countries they can be voted for. For example, in Scotland five years ago, a nineteen-year old Mirha Black was elected into the British House of Commons while doing her final papers at university.

Of course, there should be standards but focusing on banalities such as dress codes portrays a loss of focus in the universities. This had been a long time coming. To generate income, some universities in Nigeria have gone into the production of bottled water; one university actually went as far as to ban competing brands from their campus.

This is as ludicrous as it can get. Instead of focusing on research leading to the licensing of potentially lucrative patents, Nigerian universities are bottling water as a revenue stream. This is a very good testimony to the erosion of the concept and the idea of the university. There is obviously something very wrong. It also reflects our lack of development objectives in a structured way.

The much-admired Indian Institutes of Technology are making very good money from research, here we are bottling water and ranting about the appropriate dress that young adults should wear.

The time has come for a dispassionate discourse on the very idea of a university as well as a refocus, we cannot go on like this, it is becoming a theatre of the absurd.

***Ago Davies wrote in from Ile - Ife***

**EDITORIAL**

May 29 Is Here

***•Should be a momentous turn of events***

**T**

**he coming weekend separates from what for all of our sakes should be a decisive turning point. It had better be, for the projections on a myriad of fronts indicate that there is now scant margin of error. There isn’t.**

**Buffeted by cynicism, it is hard to trigger optimism, this is understandable after so many false starts and broken dreams, nevertheless, we must be stoic in guarded optimism for “ hope springs eternal.”**

**For the President-elect, the mantle to be passed on Monday should not be interpreted as a poisoned chalice on the contrary interpreted, it should be seen as an opportunity for renewal and a rebirth of the national ethos. It is at times of adversity that hard-pressed nations are compelled to reinvent themselves. The examples from history are legion, Britain facing the prospect of defeat in 1940, Frankin Roosevelt and the horrors of the great depression earlier in 1932, and Charles De Gaulle taking over a dispirited nation in 1958. A common thread is that it all depends to a considerable extent on “cometh the moment cometh the man”. That moment should begin on Monday.**

**Key here is the ability to pick a good team, and the incoming president has demonstrated the knack for doing so; he clearly picked up and polished rough diamonds in his tenure as governor of Lagos State and he continues to do so.**

**Some of them have become legendary figures in their own right which foretells well. Choosing a good team is crucial, the tenacity and the courage to implement a program for the good of all will be decisive, for it us the lack of the political will to take difficult decisions which has put us in a bind**

**Now that the chickens have come home to roost, Asiwaju must assemble a topnotch team of competent people and hit the ground running. Hitting the ground running has become unfortunately a cliche but it is what it is. Snippets of the program shows that it is well thought out, however it will be implemented in stormy weather. The country’s current account deficit is excruciatingly painful and the structure of its debt repayment is problematic because it is bunched up. Unbundling will have to be negotiated. This is inevitable because Nigeria’s revenue earnings ratio to debt servicing is not to mince words pathetic! Luckily the incoming president has proven expertise and a track-record in revenue generation, furthermore with a background in financial services he has the nous to negotiate a debt strategy in the interest of the nation.**

**A national consensus will have to be obtained in the quest to untie the Gordian knot. Nigeria with the winner takes all mentality of its political class is not going to embark on an Italian style “Historic Compromise”, nevertheless a national democratic agreement is obtainable and Asiwaju has the strategic capacity to pull it off, the preliminary discussion with Rabiu Musa Kwankwanso, the presidential candidate of the NNPP is in the right direction. It is an important step in the right direction because a big tent of popular unity must be constructed to solve the solutions of the seemingly intractable problems which have been long delayed, it is also the route towards achieving a better more balanced union.**

 **The construction of a Big Tent is important to achieve national cohesion. For the crises in Nigeria lye in the inability to break out if the shackles of a stultifying debilitation that refuses to go away, thereby preventing the emergence of a better ordered society, a new national cohesion must be weaved to break the logjam.**

**It should be a momentous day and we wish the incoming president a successful edifying tenure.**

**Vox Pop**

What We Missed About Aregbesola

***Some residents of the State of Osun have spoken about what they missed about the Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola whilst he was the governor of the state. Ismaeel Uthman captures the feelings of the residents with this Vox Pop.***

I Missed His Lively Outings

**A**

**regbesola** is a very lively and lovable personality. He knows about politics and governance too much. He is the first governor to make himself available for the common people. He is humble and religious. I missed his lively outings; you will always want to attend his programmes because there is no dull moment with him. He is sagacious and full of energy.

Aregbesola is a superstar in Nigerian politics, progressivism and modern governance. I appreciate is leadership style, he is the first governor that humbled himself by walking in the midst of common people and barring siren usage as governor. Aregbesola is the architect of modern Osun; he transformed our state and laid solid foundation for the physical and social infrastructure. I respect him for being a courageous man because it is only a man of courage that would survive Aregbesola’s political journey into power and the controversies that surrounded his programme, policies and projects. We can also see his intervention in the Ministry of Interior as well. He is an astute politician.

***•Ademola Ajayi, Halleluyah, Osogbo***

I Missed His Style Of Governance

**A**

**regbesola** is a trustworthy person. He does not like hypocrisy. He is not bias and see everyone as equal, irrespective of their religion.

Before his time as governor of the state, Islam and Christianity were the only two religion enjoying special holidays but when he came around, he gave the traditional worshippers their own right too and this shows he is fair to everybody equally. He is a special breed.

He came with a lot of programs and policies that other states in Nigeria keyed into.

He is the first governor to bring overhead bridge and mega schools to Osun. The network of roads he constructed during his time still speaks volume about the infrastructural development during his administration.

The free train service was also started during his administration and a lot of people benefited from it.

I have a special love for him. He is a straightforward person and does things the way they should be done without favouring anyone. I started voting because of Aregbesola. Those who are abusing him before are now praising him because of his achievements.

He is the one who changed the face of Osun, especially, Osogbo with his infrastructural interventions.

He is a role model and a good ambassador.

***•Sheik Abdulrofihi Raji Adeagbo, Osogbo***

I Missed O’Calisthenics

**T**

**he** economy was good during Aregbesola’s administration, my experience with O’ calisthenics informed my submission. I was part of the O’calisthenics students between 2011 and 2012, we were being given N300 per day, going to N1500 per week. If you multiply that by 2000 students, to say the least, that’s a lot of money in circulation which in returned boosted the economy of the state. A family then had three students in calisthenics, and they survived on the stipend being given to them then.

I appreciate the training we had in the calisthenics programme. We were trained on organisation, team work, steadfastness, perseverance, goal getting and skills. It was an honour for me to be part of the calisthenic programme, I still remember my seat number, 1429 till today. Our uniform made us unique and we were all happy.

I missed all Aregbesola’s interventions in education; O Meal, Opon Imo, OYEStech, etc. Aregbesola gave us befitting, modern and inspiring school buildings. The performance of secondary students in external examinations was good.

Aregesola organised Osun as a society; he organised market women, handicaps, state boys, artisans and others to achieve orderliness, smooth running of his administration and a peaceful state.

I love the Yoruba version of the state anthem introduced by Aregbesola; he promoted culture. He made himself accessible and friendly. I missed everything about him. May God bless Aregbesola!

***•Abiodun Adegunju, Osogbo***

I Missed His Political Sagacity

**A**

**regbesola** is not just a politician but somebody who knows his onions in politics. He understands politics and he successfully managed our party, APC throughout his eight years administration. To say he is a core progressive is the least, he stands tall among the politicians who claim to be progressives. It is not out of place to declare him as the only true follower of Chief Obafemi Awolowo’s political ideology.

Aregbesola is a mobilizer and a trailblazer; no wonder he is loved by the people of the state. He is not a religious bigotry as he always accommodates every religion. He is a passionate leader. I missed his political sagacity; oratory power, governance and coordination.

He brought progressive change to Osun which cut across trade, transport, agriculture, education, health, social welfare, religion, culture, etc. This led to the development that the people of Osun never dreamt of. We appreciate him; and we pray God will continue to lift him up. He is our man; a blessing to Nigeria.

***•Bashir Adedokun, Ileogbo.***

**BACK PAGE**

**PERSPECTIVE**

**BY FEMI MODE SIYANBOLA**

The Rauf I Know

**I**

 have been acquainted with Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola for over four decades, commencing from when our paths first crossed as a student and teacher relationship respectively at Imesi-Ile High School, Imesi-Ile, Obokun Local Government, State of Osun. He had come to Oke-Aye, Imesi-Ile to take up a teaching job during his adolescent period after having (an aggregate 14 and a division 1) WAEC, result from his alma mater.

Aregbesola who often wore camouflage clothes with Fidel Castro Cap was popularly called “ARESHOW” and he lived at a place in Ijana, Imesi-Ile which the people called (ILÉ LÚKE, ÌJÀNÀ ÒKÈ) where he put an inscription of “HAVANA CUBA” at the door post of the entrance of the house then. He was recruited along with some of the brilliant teachers who had come to fill the dearth of knowledge and faulty pronunciation skills being deployed to jeopardise the fate of the science students by the retiring old Indian and Pakistani teachers who later went back to their countries. As he taught the sciences, Oke-Aye was reputed and famous for its well-equipped Science Laboratory and robust Library in the Ife-Ijesa province then.

Aregbesola has since been a very likable person right from that moment. and he and some of his colleagues had already embraced Karl-Marx (1818 -1883)- a political and economic theorist who founded Marxism.

Since then, “ARESHOW” and I have been inseparable Siamese Twins underground; I always run errands for him without people suspecting the brotherly bond between us. Since then, I have held him in high esteem and probably served as his first volunteer emeritus Personal Assistant, which he has always been proud of up to this day.

The symbiotic relationship that existed between us made me begin to probe how he has chosen to seek communism and socialism knowledge through his early membership in the Marxist Movement at his adolescent period.

All of this has molded my understanding of his quest for fulfillment, protocol, orderliness, responsibility, activities, periodicity and aspiration toward his ambition to attain the limelight early enough. His inspirational drive and empowerment instinct have gotten his foundation from Karl Marx, and Friedrich Engels’s ideology. This made me to study diverse differences inherent in the pursuit of the purpose of life when there are always disparities and inequalities in society.

One of the strong contending issues which I have found out about him is his quest for rationalising situations before arriving at a judgmental verdict, as this can be found in the doctrine of “Dialectical Materialism” in the logic of utilisation of property. “Marx” believed that the rich in society utilise wealth to subjugate and dominate the poor. “Engel” viewed property as the means to an end, meaning that each person should possess property to fulfill his or her needs. This has been one of those things I have gained from thinking along with Aregbesola about why he has always empathised with many people who share the meager resources available to him.

Another inspiration that made me very close to Aregbesola was the psychology course I offered at the tertiary institution which taught me about Septimal Law which was first demonstrated to me by his conviction to organise his life to fall through the law of the periodic circles. It taught me that there is a time frame beneath all achievements in life. I was overtly shocked when I have to study what Rauf had played out for me in real life when I made him my case study. The law states: “The vibratory activities of the planetary universe are governed by the law of periodicity. In that anything that lives has periods of birth, growth, fruition, and decline”. This is the Law psychologists also called the Law of Seven. This Law governs the days of the week, the harmonies of sound, heat, electricity, magnetism, and atomic structure. It governs the life of the individual and it dominates the activities of the commercial world.

Life is growth and growth is change. In Septimal Law, each seven years period takes us into a new circle. The first seven years is the period of Infancy. The next seven is the period of Childhood, representing the beginning of individual responsibility. The next seven represent the period of Adolescent. The fourth period marks the attainment of full growth. The fifth period is the constructive period when men begin to acquire property, possessions, home and a family. The next period from 35 to 42 is the period of reactions and change, and this, in turn, is followed by a period of reconstruction, adjustment, and recuperation, to be ready for a new circle of seven beginning with the 50th year.

After using Ogbeni’s life as a case study, I found that this period is of the essence if one has to live a fulfilling life. To my surprise, Ogbeni’s achievement in life falls adequately in the circles provided by the law.

By the time Ogbeni got admission to the Polytechnic Ibadan to study Mechanical Engineering, it was very glaring that he would go places in life, as he became the Speaker of the Students’ Representative Council, and later the President of the Black Nationalist Movement.

Apart from his activism exploits as a student, this irrepressible firebrand politician’s propensity to empower people is legendary. As a man of activities and many parts, he was always involved in the organisation of seminars, and invitations of pro-democracy activists to give lectures and discuss the State of the Nation at the Polytechnic, Ibadan. People like late Gani Fawehinmi, Comrade Ola Oni - his mentor, late Fela Anikulapo Kuti, late Professor Alex Gboyega, late Dr. Kunle Amuwo, late Beko Ransome Kuti, late Segun Okeowo were always being invited, from time to time. Whenever Fela Anikulapo Kuti came on invitation to perform shows at HAVANA at UI or the Polytechnic, Ibadan “ARESHOW” as he was called then would buy many tickets to give out to friends and some of us non-students at Agbowo, UI. He would never want to watch the show alone.

One of his prominent friends, classmate and roommate then, Comrade Abimbola Daniyan would always be ready to welcome us. This token of empowerment inspiration measure encouraged me to aspire to gain admission to a higher institution. After my secondary school days, when I was offered an appointment at the licensing office, with my buoyant financial status, I had prepared to buy some Danfo vehicles to start transportation business. But Aregbesola’s altruistic gesture, largesse, and magnanimity as a student propelled me to seek admission which I got then. Unknowingly for him, his good heart coupled with the concept of assisting people inspired and encouraged me to further my education which later made me a fulfilled person in life at last.

This uncommon odyssey of a man of the people came with many ups and downs in his journey to win his governorship election through the Supreme Court judgment of November 26, 2010 which made him the 4th Executive Governor of Osun. This was after defeating Olagunsoye Oyinlola in the rigged election of 2007. One could recall that he contested the election to the House of Representatives in Alimosho federal constituency of Lagos in 1992 when he lost by a vote to one Mr. Larry King when they both contested the primary under the banner of SDP. This is the period he cut his political teeth from the Primrose Group of Hon. Dapo Sarunmi before he later joins the SDP.

Aregbesola is a fellow, associate, and member of many organizations. After his youth service corps at NITEL Kaduna, he worked briefly at Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja before establishing his Engineering Company, Aurora Nigeria Limited. He was Secretary to the LGA Elders Forum in Alimosho. He was appointed Lagos State Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure (1990 - 2010) when he was director of Tinubu’s Campaign Organization (BATCO) which engineered the electoral victory of Tinubu in 1999. He performed the same feat using the (ICG) to ensure Tinubu’s re-election for a second time.

Aregbesola as a pro-democracy and human rights activist was a major participant in the demilitarisation and pro-democracy struggles in 1990. Upon resumption as governor of Osun, he jettisons the acronym your excellency and gave himself Ogbeni.

As an architect of Modern Osun, his establishment of a huge educational infrastructure edifice, “O Models” of several entrepreneurship establishments out of which was the initial 20,000 in the (OYES Cadre). His understanding of the political economy is legendary as his infrastructure development, content creation was unprecedented in the history of the State of Osun.

After the twilight of his government, the people of Osun were not too impressed with the nomination of his successor. They were clamouring for a candidate from the West. The later imposition of the immediate past governor, Adegboyega Oyetola later resulted in the huge loss APC recorded in Osun. Out of mischief, Aregbesola was not nominated for a ministerial position by Oyetola, but President Muhammadu Buhari appointed him.

The rift that lasted between him and Asiwaju Tinubu led to many pitfalls in the required political and economic upliftment of Osun. We believe the rift will be settled ASAP as God himself will eventually break the truce between them. During his assignment as the Minister of Interior, he facilitated so many infrastructure initiatives to the delight of the people of Osun. Upon all the support he gave his successor, his legacy was disparaged and the political stalwarts he had arranged to work for the success of the immediate past governor were all sidelined, and that was the beginning of the end of Oyetola’s administration.